Mr.Chairman
Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

On behalf of ITU I would like to welcome you to this workshop on IPv6. I am glad to see so many familiar and friendly faces on the programme for this event and in the audience here. We have over 120 registered participants which is far more than we hoped for.

Let me start by making the important and perhaps obvious statement: that ITU supports the implementation of IPv6. We have organized this workshop in order to foster dialogue and international cooperation on the implementation of IPv6.

At several high-level conferences during the last decade, including the last two ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences, the last two World Telecommunication Standardization Assemblies and the last World Telecommunication Development Conference, ITU addressed IPv6 related issues, and some relevant Resolution(s) were adopted by each of those conferences. For example PP06 Resolution 102 instructs the Director of TSB to "...ensure that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) performs its role in technical issues, and to continue to contribute ITU-T expertise and to liaise and cooperate with appropriate entities on issues related to the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, such as IP version 6 (IPv6), ENUM and IDNs, as well as any other related technological developments and issues, including facilitating appropriate studies on these issues by relevant ITU-T study groups and other groups"

In other words ITU has been mandated by its members - the world's information and communications technology companies, together with the world's governments - to commit to this objective.

The standardization sector of ITU - ITU-T, the sector that looks at developing country issues - ITU-D – and the Radiocommunication sector – ITU-R, all have ongoing work on IPv6. In addition ITU has hosted IPv6 workshops and ITU has expressed its support for IPv6 at conferences around the world.

The ITU group looking at standardization of NGN (Next Generation Networks) – Study Group 13 - is looking at the impact of IPv6 on NGN as one of its tasks. Indeed it has recently approved three standards (ITU-T Recommendations) on this topic with another pending.

Importantly ITU has worked with other standards developing organizations (SDOs) and particularly with IETF, IPv6 forums, and the RIRs on the promotion of IPv6. Additionally, ITU has worked with the European Union (EU) Task Force responsible for creating roadmaps for the deployment of IPv6 in all business sectors within the EU.

We have noted voices and opinions from the developing world as well as from the developed world, from academia and research institutes as well as from industry members. Often these voices focus on the issue of the management of internet resources, including IPv6 addresses and that it may be appropriate to consider systems that avoid some of the problems that have arisen with IPv4allocations.

Ladies and gentlemen

IPv4 has given us the means to change global commerce and alter fundamentally the way we live. It is clearly a critical component of the information society. It is however a technology that was created in the early 1980s many years before we knew what the Internet would look like today. For example the number of users of the Internet in China was not tracked until ten years later when just 2000 people were connected. Now there are more than 210 million people in China connected.

IPv6 is a tool for modernizing the networks that we have come to rely on for daily life and business.

The most noticeable problem that IPv6 will solve is a global shortage of IP addresses. With the massive deployment of Internet-related resources worldwide and the integration of IP-enabled consumer devices connected directly to the network, the issue of the depletion of IPv4 addresses is an urgent problem.

Despite the use of network address translation (NAT) as a strategy for reducing the use of public IPv4 addresses many forecast the depletion of IPv4 addresses in the next few years.

The migration from IPv4 to IPv6 will take into consideration a transition period during which both versions of IP will be used at the same time. Although the migration will be gradual, there have been many discussions on technical, administrative and coordination issues at an international level. While much has already been achieved, more work has to be done to speed the deployment of IPv6 which is becoming a more and more urgent issue for many in the world.

ITU has been addressing IPv6 issues for many years.

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) emphasized the role of the International Organizations in ensuring that Internet related developments such as IPv6 are properly used to facilitate the access to ICTs by the world citizens, respecting the agreed principles for the inclusive Information Society.

Taking into account the various Plenipotentiary Resolutions and the WSIS Tunis Agenda for Information Society, it is clear that ITU should play an active role in IPv6.

ITU's IPv6 strategy will be based on the progress made by other organizations (e.g. IETF, Regional Internet Registries or RIRs and or Number Resource Organization (NRO)) and ICANN and complement this work by bringing the added value of a forum composed by 191 governments and more than 700 private sector entities as a unique mechanism for a consensus-based approach for the deployment, management and policy making strategies of IPv6.

ITU could play an active role in areas such as:

- Technical and standardization issues – ITU will seek to agree on standards that will enable the most efficient and effective usage of IPv6; and

- Promotion, capacity building and technical assistance - helping countries in the deployment process and parallel running of IPv4 and IPv6.

Concrete action that could fulfill these aims includes the organization of events such as this; further cooperation and contribution to the work of relevant organizations (e.g. RIRs) to identify gaps and missing links that could be filled by ITU; and development of assistance programmes for developing countries.

Indeed this workshop is a result of some of this collaboration.

I would like to extend an invitation to the "IPv6 global community" to engage with ITU on this important topic. It will be essential in the coming months to address some of the roadblocks that have so far stalled IPv6 implementations.

ITU has proven relevant competency as the architect and custodian of the world's international telephone numbering system, a system which is characterised by stability. The stability of the Internet is paramount and I am sure that the problems experienced so far are surmountable and I know that ITU has the knowledge, strength and will to assist.

I won't take up anymore of your time. You have some excellent speakers. I would like to thank them for being with us today. I would like to thank our sponsors Cisco for the reception this

evening and Tiscali International Network for the coffee breaks. And lastly I would like to thank our chairmen Mr. Nabil Kisrawi, permanent representative of Syria to ITU, and Detlef Eckert from the European Commission.

I will now hand over to these two gentlemen to give their opening remarks, but before doing so I wish you an enjoyable and interesting two days. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and the results of the workshop will bne produced in a Chairmen's report.

Thank you for your attention.